

App. No. 10/829,332
Supplemental reply dated February 16, 2006
Re Office action of November 15, 2005

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REMARKS – Supplemental

Applicants' undersigned representative respectfully requests consideration of the following comments corrective to the remarks made in Applicants' reply filed yesterday, February 15, 2006.

- The relationship clarified by amending claims 7 through 9 is of these claims to Fig. 7, not Fig. 6. That is, the enumeration in the February 15 reply should be corrected as below.

Claim 2 – Figs. 5 and 7;
Claim 3 – Fig. 5;
Claims 4 and 5 – Fig. 6; and
Claims 7-9 – Fig. 6 7.

- The version of claim 1 reproduced in clean form in the in the February 15 reply unfortunately was not exactly the version set forth in the Listing of Claims under the amendments section of that reply, but instead was an interim draft. While it is understood that the version in the Listing of Claims is controlling, for the record, and in the hope that a clean version is helpful to the Examiner, the correct clean version is presented on the following page.

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1. An assemblage for forming a hydrodynamic bearing, the assemblage comprising:

a shaft unit including

a shaft having a cylindrical outer circumferential surface defining a first side of a radial hydrodynamic bearing section, and, orthogonal to the cylindrical outer circumferential surface, an end surface where a first joint surface is formed, and

a disc member of diameter larger than that of said shaft and having a flat surface where a second joint surface is formed, for facing the end surface of the shaft to be joined and fixed thereto;

a bearing member having a cylindrical inner circumferential surface opposing and rotatable relative to the cylindrical outer circumferential surface of said shaft, to define a second side of the radial hydrodynamic bearing section;

an annular, axially protruding projection of a diameter smaller than that of said shaft and configured so as to melt under a predetermined applied voltage, said projection provided on one of either said first or second joint surfaces; and

a recess outer peripherally of diameter smaller than that of said shaft yet larger than that of said projection, and dimensioned so as to receive said projection as molten matter, said recess provided on one of either said first or second joint surfaces; wherein

by bringing said first and second joint surfaces into contact and applying a predetermined voltage across said shaft and said disc member, said projection becomes molten matter and flows into said recess, bringing said an end surface of said shaft and said flat surface of said disc member into contact with each other and welding said shaft and said disc member together.

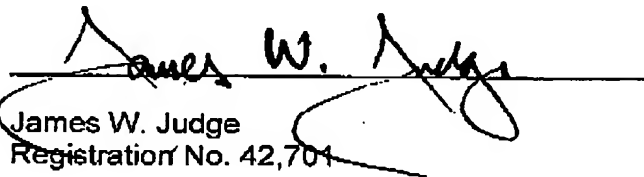
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It is respectfully submitted that Applicants' reply of February 15, 2006 was fully responsive to the Office action of November 15, 2005, and that the foregoing remarks merely serve to correct and clarify remarks made in the February 15 reply. Accordingly, since the present supplemental remarks do not attempt to alter Applicants' amendment of February 15, nor do they touch on the merits of the present application, it is respectfully requested that they be entered.

Again, favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

February 16, 2006


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